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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 26, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN T. SALAZAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Michael E. Askew, Sr., Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Creator, maker of days past, present and future, we humble ourselves in the breaking of this new day, so that in all of our efforts and energy, we give glory to You.

We pray for each Member in this United States House of Representatives and their staff. We ask that in the actions and deliberations of today, resentment, strife, bitterness, and anger will not prevail.

Rather, each Member is mindful to hear the voices and concerns of people they serve, of those serving in the military, of those living in small towns, on farms, in rural communities, and in cities throughout the United States, so collectively and conscientiously we may find methods and solutions to help even the least among us during these troubled times.

With great joy and gratitude, we stand before You ready to serve. Lord, hear Your people as we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HONDA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 8. Concurrent resolution expressing support for Children's Dental Health Month and honoring the memory of Deamonte Driver.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee on Finance, announces the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation:

The Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS).

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER).

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD).

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH).

WELCOMING REV. MICHAEL ASKEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to have had Rev. Michael Askew from Tallahassee, Florida, as our guest chaplain today to lead us in prayer this morning. I appreciate his insightful words and spiritual message.

Rev. Askew joins us from the Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee, Florida, where he has led the congregation since September of 2008 after arriving there from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Rev. Askew has an impressive 20-year career as an educator and careworker to at-risk youth. He is a man of God, a man of service, and a spiritual leader and teacher in the Tallahassee community.

I would like to commend Rev. Askew for the positive impact he has made on so many lives in my community and others. We are grateful for his service, and I wish him the very best as he continues to guide his congregation in the coming years.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give voice to several of my constituents' stories about how they are being impacted by the economic downturn.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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